

### Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims that follows includes the present status of all claims including current amendments and will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1(currently amended). A method for suppressing the expression of a selected gene in a cell the method comprising a step of introducing into the cell a molecule comprising (1) a nucleic acid binding portion which binds to a site at or associated with the selected gene which site is present in a geonome and (2) an expression repressor portion, wherein the nucleic acid binding portion comprises an oligonucleotide or oligonucleotide mimic or analogue, and wherein the repressor portion comprises a polypeptide or peptidomimetic.

2(currently amended). A method for modulating the expression of a selected gene in a cell the method comprising a step of introducing into the cell a molecule comprising (1) a nucleic acid binding portion which binds to a site at or associated with the selected gene which site is present in a genome and (2) a modifying portion, wherein the nucleic acid binding portion comprises an oligonucleotide or oligonucleotide mimic or analogue, and wherein the modifying portion comprises a polypeptide or peptidomimetic which is capable of modulating covalent modification of nucleic acid or chromatin and is not an

endonuclease.

3(currently amended).     ~~The~~ A method ~~of~~ according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the repressor or modifying portion is a chromatin inactivation portion.

4(currently amended).     ~~The~~ A method ~~of~~ according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the repressor or modifying portion is all or a portion of a component of a DNA methylase complex or all or a portion of a polypeptide which binds to or facilitates the recruitment of a DNA methylase complex.

5(currently amended).     ~~The~~ A method ~~of~~ according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the repressor or modifying portion is all or a portion of a component of a histone acetyltransferase or all or a portion of a polypeptide which binds to or facilitates the recruitment of a histone acetyltransferase complex.

6(currently amended).     ~~The~~ A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 or 2 wherein the polypeptide or peptidomimetic part of the molecule has a molecular mass of less than 11 kDa.

7(currently amended).     A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 or 2 wherein the nucleic acid binding portion is a DNA binding portion.

8(currently amended).     A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1 or 2 wherein the nucleic acid binding portion is an RNA binding portion and the site present in a genome is a nascent RNA being transcribed from DNA.

9(currently amended). ~~The A method of any of the preceding claims~~ according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the oligonucleotide or oligonucleotide analog or mimetic is a triplex forming oligonucleotide (TFO).

10(currently amended). ~~The A method of any of the preceding claims~~ according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the oligonucleotide analog or mimetic is a peptide nucleic acid (PNA).

11(currently amended). A method according to claim 3 ~~or claims dependent thereon~~ wherein the chromatin inactivation portion facilitates histone deacetylation.

12(currently amended). A method according to claim 3 ~~or claims dependent thereon~~ or 11 wherein the chromatin inactivation portion is all or a portion of a component of a histone deacetylation (HDAC) complex or all or a portion of a polypeptide which binds to or facilitates the recruitment of a HDAC complex.

13(currently amended). A method according to claim 12 wherein the component of the HDAC complex or the polypeptide which binds to or facilitates the recruitment of a HDAC complex is ~~any one~~ selected from the group consisting of PLZF, N-CoR, SMRT, Sin3, SAP18, SAP30, HDAC, NuRD, MAD1, MAD2, MAD3, MAD4, Rb or E7.

14(original). A method according to claim 13 wherein the chromatin inactivation portion is all or a N-CoR-or SMRT-binding part of PLZF.

15(original). A method according to claim 13 wherein the chromatin inactivation portion is all or an enzymatically active part of a HDAC.

16(original). A method according to claim 13 wherein the chromatin inactivation portion is all or a histone deacetylase complex-binding part of E7.

17(currently amended). A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 or 2 wherein the molecule further comprises a portion which facilitates cellular entry and/or nuclear localization.

18(currently amended). A method according to claim ~~18~~ 17 wherein the portion which facilitates cellular entry and/or nuclear localization is a small peptide of 7-16 amino acids, ~~for example Modified Antennapedia homeodomain (RQIKIWFQNRRMKWKK) or basic HIV TAT internalization peptide (C(Acm)GRKKRRQRRRPQC),~~ where C(Acm) is a Cys-acetamidomethyl.

19(currently amended). A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 18~~ claim 1 or 2 wherein the nucleic acid binding portion and the repressor or modifying portion are fused.

20(currently amended). A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 or 2 wherein the cell is an eukaryotic cell.

21(currently amended). A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 or 2 wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of an animal cell ~~and~~ that is contained

within an animal ~~or is~~ and a plant cell ~~and that~~ is contained within a plant.

22(currently amended). A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 or 2 wherein the expression of a selected gene in a human is suppressed.

23(currently amended). A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 or 2 wherein the expression of a plurality of selected genes is suppressed.

24(currently amended). ~~Use of a molecule as defined in relation to any of the preceding claims~~ A method according to claim 1 or 2 including the step of using said molecule in the manufacture of an agent for modulating the expression of the a selected gene in a cell.

25(currently amended). ~~The use of claim 24~~ A method as in claim 24 wherein the agent is for suppressing the expression of the selected gene.

26(currently amended). Use A method according to claim 24 ~~or 25~~ wherein the agent is a medicament for modulating or suppressing the expression of a selected gene in an animal or patient in need of such modulation or suppression.

27-30(canceled).

31(currently amended). A pharmaceutical composition comprising a molecule as defined in ~~any of the previous claims~~ claim 1 or 2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

32(currently amended). ~~The~~ A composition ~~of~~ according to

claim 31 comprising means for promoting cellular uptake of the molecule, ~~for example, liposomes or a viral carrier.~~

33(currently amended). A host cell comprising a molecule as defined in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ wherein said host cell is selected from the group consisting of a bacterial cell, an animal cell and a plant cell.

34-38(canceled).

39(currently amended). A method for designing a molecule for suppressing expression of a selected gene in a cell, the method comprising the steps of:

- (1) identifying a site at or associated with the selected gene;
  - (2) identifying or designing a nucleic acid binding portion which binds to, or is predicted to bind to, the site (or a polynucleotide having or comprising the nucleotide sequence of the site); and
  - (3) preparing a molecule comprising the nucleic acid binding portion and an expression repressor portion,
- wherein the nucleic acid binding portion comprises an oligonucleotide or oligonucleotide mimic or analogue and wherein the repressor portion comprises a polypeptide or peptidomimetic.

40(currently amended). A method for designing a molecule for modulating expression of a selected gene in a cell, the method comprising the steps of:

- (1) identifying a site at or associated with the selected gene;
- (2) identifying or designing a nucleic acid binding portion

which binds to, or is predicted to bind to, the site (or a polynucleotide having or comprising the nucleotide sequence of the site); and

(3) preparing a molecule comprising the nucleic acid binding portion and a modifying portion, wherein the nucleic acid binding portion comprises an oligonucleotide or oligonucleotide mimic or analogue and wherein the modifying portion comprises a polypeptide or peptidomimetic which is capable of modulating covalent modification of nucleic acid or chromatin.

41(currently amended). The method of claim 39 or 40 further comprising the steps of:

(4) performing a quality control assessment on the molecule preparation in order to determine that the nucleic acid binding portion and repressor or modifying portion are attached to each other;

(5) testing the affinity and/or specificity of binding of the nucleic acid binding portion to the site and/or a polynucleotide having or comprising the nucleotide sequence of the site;

(6) testing the affinity and/or specificity of binding of the molecule to the site and/or a polynucleotide having or comprising the nucleotide sequence of the site; and/or

(7) testing the efficacy of the molecule or polynucleotide in modulating or suppressing the expression of the gene and/or of a reporter gene comprising the nucleotide sequence of the site.

42-43 (canceled) .